



Alliance for Community Media

**1760 Old Meadow Road
Suite 500
McLean, VA 22102
Ph: 703.556.7175
Fax: 703.506.3266**

*Building Community
Through Media
Since 1976.*

www.allcommunitymedia.org

November 16, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Honorable Michael Copps
Honorable Robert McDowell
Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: EAS TEST AND PEG CHANNELS, ED Docket No. 04-296

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell and Clyburn:

The Alliance for Community Media provides critical support services for community media centers and the public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels they provide, and for the primarily volunteer staff that keep these critical local media centers in operation. We write to request that, as it examine the successes and challenges to the nation's first nationwide emergency alert system ("EAS") test, the Commission include an examination of whether viewers of PEG channels were provided with the alert. It is our understanding that many PEG channels could not participate in the EAS test because the operators of many cable systems on which PEG channels are carried – primarily large cable companies - could not or chose not to participate in the test.. While PEG channels were ready to run the EAS test and many work closely with local and state emergency management personnel, many local communities were not served by the test. We have not been able to ascertain whether PEG viewers on systems that did participate in the test were provided with the alert.

The Alliance stands ready to assist the Commission as you move forward in this matter. It is vitally important to us that PEG viewers are afforded the same guarantee that they will be made aware of a national alert should they be viewing PEG programming at the time the EAS is triggered. This is a critical public safety matter that we and our members take seriously, and the Commission should, too.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Strobel, Esq.
Executive Director

CC by email:

Joel Gurin, Bureau Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

James Arden Barnett, Jr., Bureau Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau